



Medi-Cal reimbursement rates

Planned Parenthood Lobbies State of CA for \$50 million

Planned Parenthood has been in the news a lot lately. With the release of the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2018, he has joined the Republicans in Congress in their effort to prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funding. (See story on page 3.) As we continue to fight back against defunding on the national front, we continue to fight for increased Medi-Cal reimbursement rates here at home.

Planned Parenthood California Central Coast is one of seven Planned Parenthood affiliates in the state of California. Collectively, we serve 850,000 patients annually at 115 health centers throughout the state. Eighty-seven percent of our patients have low incomes, and their care is reimbursed through either the Family PACT program, Medi-Cal or Medi-Cal managed care. There has not been a Medi-Cal rate increase since 2008, and we can no longer subsidize the disparity between the cost of services provided and the Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for these services.

As the leading provider of reproductive health care for Medi-Cal recipients in California, Planned Parenthood has sent a request to the Senate and Assembly Committees on Budget to improve access to care by committing \$50 million of Proposition 56 (tobacco tax) funding to enhance Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for family planning services.



Family planning costs have risen 40% since 2008, the last time rates were increased. Reimbursements for family planning services are now less than half the cost of providing these services. As a result, Planned Parenthood affiliates lost more than \$60.5 million in providing family planning visits last year.

Planned Parenthood is committed to serving as a safety-net provider, but it cannot sustain these losses year after year. Without an increase to offset rising costs, our affiliates will not be able to continue to see as many patients, in as many locations.

Increasing reimbursement rates will ensure our health centers can continue to provide high-quality, affordable health care for women and men throughout California. Family planning services are highly effective. Over 25 years, California's family planning program has caused:

- Rates of unintended pregnancy and unplanned births to decline 82%
- The teen birth rate to decline by 71%
- The number of abortions to fall by half

At Planned Parenthood, our nurses, doctors, and staff work tirelessly to ensure that women and families are always able to access affordable, high-quality health care in a safe and caring environment. To continue that focus, and provide that care, no matter what, Medi-Cal rates need to cover the costs of providing those services.

Bridging the Gap for the LGBTQ Community

Planned Parenthood California Central Coast is collaborating with Fielding Graduate University faculty on a **Community Needs and Assets Assessment (CNAA)** for sexual and reproductive health with LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Tran and Queer) community members in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The study is being launched in partnership with local LGBTQ-serving nonprofit organizations. Current project partners include:

The Pacific Pride Foundation, PFLAG-Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, the Santa Barbara Transgender Advocacy Network (SBTAN), Ventura County Public Health Department, Rainbow Umbrella, Diversity Collective, PFLAG-Ventura, PFLAG-Oak Park, TransAlliance Ventura and the Santa Paula West Pride Clinic.



Project Objectives

- Assess how Planned Parenthood can expand services and/or change current practices to better address the changing needs of the LGBTQ communities served.
- Collect a baseline of medical services available to members of local LGBTQ communities and compare this against the gaps identified during the CNAA.
- Use data from the CNAA to strengthen Planned Parenthood LGBTQ cultural-competence and improve the sexual and reproductive health services delivered throughout the region.
- Publicize and disseminate research findings to support awareness and advocacy around LGBTQ health issues.
- Share the research project's findings so other nonprofit organizations will be able to use information gathered by this CNAA.
- Develop strategies to address local LGBTQ communities' needs, i.e. launching new, specialized programs and services.

Project Progress

The project received approval from the Internal Review Board at Fielding Graduate University in August 2016 to begin recruiting participants and conducting one-on-one interviews. Later that month, we kicked off recruitment at Ventura Pride Festival and Santa Barbara Pride Festival thanks to invitations from Diversity Collective Ventura County and Pacific Pride Foundation.



We were energized by the warm response we received and the eagerness with which the community embraced the project. Throughout the fall of 2016, we secured *Letters of Support* from our community partners and funding through private foundations and individual donors. In winter 2017, we began interviewing participants to capture in-depth information about gaps in our community.

The results of these interviews guided survey development during spring 2017. The survey collects broader data from a larger, more diverse audience. When the surveys are completed, we will hold community partner roundtables in summer 2017 in each county to share what we have learned partners know what we have learned thus far and get their input on the next steps. As the project wraps up, PPCCC and our community partners will use the data for future projects and grants.

Trump Budget Singles Out Planned Parenthood for First Time in History

On May 23rd, the Trump administration unveiled an overview of its Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. This budget includes sharp cuts and unprecedented changes to essential programs, such as Medicaid, that women disproportionately rely on. And, for the first time in history, it singles out an individual health care provider—Planned Parenthood—by excluding it from participating in all programs administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).



The Henson Family

What does defunding Planned Parenthood mean?

The President's budget specifically prohibits Planned Parenthood from participating in federally funded programs such as Medicaid (Medi-Cal in CA), the Title X family planning program, Zika prevention programs, HIV prevention grants, Violence Against Women Act grants to prevent sexual

assault, the CDC National Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening program, maternal and child health programs, STD and infertility prevention grants and more. This is what the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress meant when they said they would "defund" Planned Parenthood.

Essentially, this budget blocks millions of women across the country from getting their health care at Planned Parenthood because they rely on federally funded programs for their health care. In California, 850,000 patients choose to receive their health care at one of our 115 health centers statewide. Nearly 87% of them are low income and rely on federally funded programs for their health care. If Trump has his way, 737,000 of our patients could no longer access care at Planned Parenthood.

A Broken Promise to Americans

Never has a President's budget made such extreme and callous cuts to programs that so many people in the United States rely on. Remarkably, as a candidate, President Trump promised there would be no cuts to Medicaid-- a promise he has now broken in spectacular fashion. He is proposing to cut hundreds of billions of dollars from the Medicaid program, which will result in millions of people losing insurance coverage. More than 70 million Americans, including women, mothers, children and seniors, depend on Medicaid for their health coverage.



When we all help one another everybody wins.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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Remember PPCCC in your will: "Tomorrow's dollars" are just as important as "today's dollars." Adding a charitable bequest to your existing will takes just a quick phone call to your legal or estate advisor. Or, call Sherry Madsen, VP Development, at 805.722.1516.

We are always looking for volunteers for the **Mary Jane McCord Planned Parenthood Book Sale**. Our volunteers work year-round sorting and pricing books for the sale. If you are interested in volunteering please visit booksale.ppcentralcoast.org or call Brittany at 805.722.1517.

Looking for other volunteer opportunities with PPCCC? Please email volunteers@ppcentralcoast.org



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New Book Sale Warehouse

In January 2017 our Book Sale sorting site moved to Goleta. We outgrew our storage space on Gutierrez Street and needed a larger facility to sort and process book donations.



We are now accepting donations at our new warehouse at **5726 Thornwood Drive in Goleta.**

Books may be dropped off 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year! There is a marked red shed where you may securely leave your book donations. Please put them in boxes or sturdy bags.

Every donation supports Planned Parenthood California Central Coast, so please drop off your books to our new location. Your donation is important and appreciated. Thank you!

Please visit us at booksale.ppcentralcoast.org for more information on the Book Sale.

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